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ABOUT AUTO EMISSIONS

Since January 1, 1971, the control of air pollution from motor vehicles has been a shared federal-provincial responsibility. The federal government now establishes all emission standards for new vehicles and enforces them at the manufacturer's level.

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment is responsible for the control of pollution caused by emissions from vehicles after they have been sold.

The use of gasoline as fuel for motor vehicles produces three main pollutants: hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides and the major offender, carbon monoxide. About 90 per cent of the carbon monoxide contamination in our air is produced by exhaust from motor vehicles.

Prior to 1971, regulations controlling pollution existed only at the provincial level. Ontario was the first province to pass legislation to control auto emissions. The initial regulations reduced pollution from 1969 model cars to 50 per cent of that produced by uncontrolled cars. Subsequent regulations for 1970 and 1971 further reduced such emissions.

It is an offence to remove pollution control systems from a motor vehicle or even to operate such a vehicle with such systems removed or altered. The maximum fine is \$5,000.

Every summer in Ontario two mobile automotive testing laboratories test for pollutants emitting from motor vehicle exhaust systems. The two white vans are operated by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment Air Resources Branch located at 1146 Castlefield Avenue, in Toronto.

This branch works in many ways to lessen automotive pollution. It not only conducts a testing program on a continuing basis at the Castlefield Avenue Centre, but also conducts experimental programs relating to new types of automotive control systems, provides an educational service to auto mechanics, operates a pilot program to reduce visible emissions from heavy duty vehicles and promotes public awareness on keeping vehicles properly tuned and maintained.

On a continuing basis, it assesses the effectiveness of exhaust emission controls and ensures compliance with the Environmental Protection Act, 1971. This is accomplished by spot checks carried out by the vans and checks carried out at the Castlefield Avenue Test Centre. Approximately 12,000 tests are carried out annually at the centre.



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